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Senator Rodríguez statement regarding SB 14, the “parent trigger” bill

AUSTIN – SB 14, the so-called “parent trigger” bill that for schools rated by the state to be failing would allow parents to make operational changes at schools, from hiring new administrators to converting the school into a charter, passed the Senate floor today. Sen. José Rodríguez voted for the bill. His statement is as follows:

I am a strong proponent of parental involvement in their neighborhood schools. I also strongly believe holding schools accountable to the parents of students. Today I was able to amend the proposed SB 14 on the floor to give failing schools time to improve. The initial version of SB 14 would have given failing schools only two years to improve, when just last session we passed the rule giving those schools five years. But TEA data of 225 campuses rated unacceptable showed that their number dropped to 65 between the second and third year, making that third year key. I offered an amendment to give schools that third year, and it was accepted. For this reason, I voted for the bill.

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.